## Message Text

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**ACTION EUR-12** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /048 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EIND. EEC

SUBJECT: EC INDUSTRIAL POLICY--NEW SECTORS SEEKING HELP

**REF: EC BRUSSELS 378** 

1. JOSE NICOLAI, AN ADVISOR TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INDUSTRY, TOLD US ON JANUARY 28 THAT EC COMMISSION IS BEING SOLICITED BY MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS, AND BY REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRIAL SECTORS IN DIFFICULTY, TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE LATTER'S PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED THE COMMISSION TO ORGANIZE A MEETING ON THE PROBLEMS IN THE GLASS INDUSTRY. HE ALSO NOTED REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE WOMENS' HOSIERY INDUSTRY. THE MISSION HAS REPORTED ON THE COMMISSION'S APPROACH TO REQUESTS FROM THE SHOE AND TANNERY INDUSTRY (SEE REFTEL). THE COMMISSION IS ALSO REPORTEDLY LOOKING INTO PROBLEMS OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

2. NICOLAI TOLD US THAT SOME COMMISSION OFFICIALS, IN-CLUDING COMMISSIONER SPINELLI, ARE VERY CAUTIOUS ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO "SAVE INEFFICIENT FIRMS". LOEFF, THE ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INDUSTRY, AND WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDUSTRIAL SECTORS, ARE MORE SYMPATHETIC.

3. COMMENT: WITH THE SLOWDOWN IN INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY IN EUROPE AND RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS, WE MAY BE SEEING THE BEGINNING OF A SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL. SO FAR, LITTLE HAS SURFACED IN THE WAY OF A COMMISSION RESPONSE TO NEW SECTORAL SOLICITATIONS. GREENWALD

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